



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Washington, DC
20250

Dr. Milan Malena
General Director
State Veterinary Administration
Slezská 7
120 56 Praha 2
Czech Republic

JUL 22 2005

Dear Dr. Malena:

I greatly appreciate the hospitality and cooperation you and your staff provided the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) site visit team on its recent trip to the Czech Republic. Significant progress was made in our evaluation of your country's status for classical swine fever (CSF) and swine vesicular disease (SVD). As discussed during the visit, we are providing you with a written summary of issues identified as potential risk factors for introduction or reintroduction of CSF or SVD into the Czech Republic.

Our main concerns are migration of, and surveillance for, wild boar, particularly considering the ongoing findings of serologically positive wild boar within the Czech Republic. We are concerned about the potential risk of CSF-infected wild boar from Slovakia migrating to the Czech Republic. Moreover, sampling 10 percent of hunted wild boar in the southern districts that are adjacent to districts that border Slovakia may be insufficient to detect CSF at low prevalence levels. In contrast, sampling at 10 percent in low-risk districts, such as Brno city, with few wild boars does not appear to add appreciable value to the surveillance efforts.

We are proceeding with the risk assessment based on the information gathered to date. Additional risk issues may be identified during the evaluation process. Because the APHIS team was unable to evaluate the diagnostic laboratories, we will contact you soon to arrange for our laboratory personnel to visit. In addition, as noted in the initial visit, APHIS needs more information to conduct its evaluation. Timely receipt of the following information will expedite APHIS' evaluation:

1. The estimated number of wild boar per region in 2005.
2. The number of suspect cases of CSF and SVD reported from the field and from the diagnostic laboratories in 2000-2005.
3. The age distribution of serologically positive wild boar found in 2000-2005.
4. Demographic information on swine holding size (scaled by number of swine on the premises, exact scale is optional) and the number of herds in each size category.
5. Location of swine farms with more than 5,000 pigs (a map would be helpful).
6. Location of swine farms most likely to export to the United States (a map would be helpful).
7. Decree No. 299/2003 Sections 38-58 (concerning CSF emergency plans) in English.



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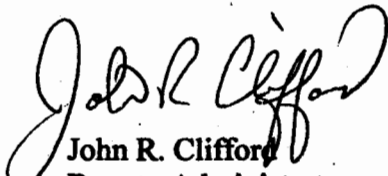
Dr. Milan Malena

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Your primary contact for this project is Dr. Kelly Rhodes, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, Regionalization Evaluation Services Staff, Unit 38, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. Her telephone number is 301-734-4356; her e-mail address is Kelly.Rhodes@aphis.usda.gov; and her fax number is 301-734-3222. Please contact Dr. Rhodes if you have any questions or concerns.

Again, thank you for your hospitality and cooperation.

Sincerely,



John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services